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Letter dated 28 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 28 May 2000 from Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Iraq. The Speaker draws attention to the maintenance by the United States and the United Kingdom of the no-flight zones in Iraq, which represents a use of force in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, and to the fact that they have prohibited civilian air traffic to and from Iraq in breach of the resolutions of the Security Council; and he expresses the desire that you should adopt a public position on the issue.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In 1991, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France imposed a no-flight zone in northern Iraq, north of the 36th parallel. In 1992, the same three countries imposed a no-flight zone in southern Iraq, south of the 32nd parallel. In 1996, the United States, in cooperation with the United Kingdom, extended the southern no-flight zone up to the 33rd parallel. At that time, France ceased to cooperate in the maintenance of any of the zones.

These no-fly zones were imposed unilaterally and without any authorization. They have been maintained by use of force, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and in such a way as to constitute aggression against Iraq. We have reported the thousands of violations there have been and that have caused widespread destruction and loss of life. Since 16 December 1998, the human losses have amounted to 297 dead and 863 injured.

Since the aggression first began, the United States and the United Kingdom have acted to prohibit civilian air traffic to and from Iraq. This prohibition has constituted another unlawful act, inasmuch as there has been no provision in any of the resolutions of the Security Council that subjects Iraq to an aerial blockade. It is widely known that the members of the Council have affirmed this fact on every occasion this question has been discussed in connection with consideration of the Pilgrimage flights that have been organized by Iraq.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq has addressed the matter of these violations in many communications to the members of the Council, either directly or by providing them with information through the medium of letters. These communications have demonstrated the illegal character of the United States and British claims in an indubitable manner.

The members of the National Assembly of Iraq are constantly inquiring about your position, particularly since the Iraqi letters are addressed to you. It is certain that, under the Charter, the Secretary-General has the power to make public his position with regard to matters affecting international peace and security. The Anglo-American actions and dispositions to which we have referred are in manifest breach of the Charter, of the resolutions of the Security Council and of international law. The situation merits a position of principle on your part and a timely endeavour to restore respect for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Otherwise, the logic of force will prevail over the logic of truth in violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful for a public position from you on this issue.

(*Signed*) Sa'dun **Hammadi**
Speaker of the National Assembly